

What is claimed is:

1. A corrosion-resistant utility body for mounting onto a truck chassis, comprising:

5 a pair of body side storage compartment units being adapted to be mounted along rear side portions of a truck chassis, each of said units being comprised of a storage compartment assembly of metal walls forming compartments that lead to separate side openings;

10 a pair of one-piece face plates comprised of metal, each of said one-piece face plates including door openings aligned with each of said side openings of said respective storage compartment assembly;

fasteners that connect each said one-piece face plate to an outer surface of a respective said storage compartment assembly; and

door assemblies connected to said one-piece face plates in alignment with said door openings;

wherein said body side storage compartment units are weld-free.

2. The utility body of claim 1 wherein a pair of contiguous said walls includes one wall including a pre-cut hole therein and another wall having a flange including a pre-cut hole therein, said pre-cut hole of said flange and said pre-cut hole of said surface being aligned, each of said fasteners comprising a head that contacts an outer one of said walls, a shank extending from said head through said aligned pre-cut holes and comprising a plurality of lock grooves, and a tubular collar that has an interior portion swaged into said lock grooves into contact with an inner surface of the other of said walls effective to clamp said walls together.

5 3. A utility vehicle comprising a truck chassis, a cab mounted to a front portion of said chassis, and the utility body of claim 1 mounted to a rear portion of said chassis.

4. A corrosion-resistant utility body for mounting onto a truck chassis comprising:

5 a pair of body side storage compartment units comprising metal walls forming compartments that lead to separate side openings, each of said storage compartment units being adapted to be mounted generally parallel to each other onto rear side

10 portions of a truck chassis, each said unit being comprised of a storage compartment assembly of metal panels and sections comprising: side wall panels extending generally vertically, an upper panel extending generally horizontally over said side wall panels, a back section extending generally vertically and lower sections extending between said side wall panels, said panels and sections being constructed and arranged relative to one another to form said storage compartment assemblies including said side

15 openings, wherein a periphery of some of said panels and sections include flanges in which flange holes are pre-cut and a periphery of others of said panels and sections are without flanges in which surface holes are pre-cut, said flange holes being aligned with said surface holes on contiguous said panels and sections;

20 a pair of one-piece face plates comprised of metal, each of said one-piece face plates including door openings aligned with each of said side openings of said respective storage compartment assembly, said one-piece face plates further including pre-cut holes that are aligned with flange-holes on flanges of said panels and sections on an outer surface of said respective storage compartment assembly;

25 fasteners that connect each said one-piece face plate to said flanges of said panels and sections on the outer surface of said respective said storage compartment assembly and connect together said panels and sections, said fasteners connecting contiguous pairs of members selected from the group consisting of said face plate and said panels and sections, each of said fasteners comprising a head that contacts an outer surface of one of the members, a shank extending from said head through said aligned pre-cut holes in said members and comprising a plurality of lock grooves, and a tubular collar that has an interior portion swaged into said lock grooves into contact with an inner surface of a flange of the other one of the members effective to clamp together

30 the contiguous pairs of the members; and

door assemblies connected to said one-piece face plates in alignment with said door openings;

wherein said body side storage compartment units are weld-free.

5. A utility vehicle comprising a truck chassis, a cab mounted to a front portion of said chassis, and the utility body of claim 4 mounted to a rear portion of said chassis.

6. A method of constructing a corrosion-resistant utility body for mounting to a truck chassis, comprising the steps of:

providing body side storage compartment units having compartments that lead to separate side openings, said storage compartment units being adapted to be mounted along rear side portions of a truck chassis, each said unit being comprised of a storage compartment assembly of metal panels and sections comprising: side wall panels constructed and arranged to extend generally vertically; an upper section constructed and arranged to extend generally horizontally over said side wall panels, a rear section constructed and arranged to extend generally vertically, lower sections constructed and arranged to extend between said side wall sections; and a metal one-piece face plate constructed and arranged to be disposed on outer surfaces of said storage compartment assembly and to include door openings aligned with each of said side openings on said storage compartment assembly,

wherein said one-piece face plate includes a plurality of pre-cut holes, and each of said panels and sections includes flanges around a periphery thereof that extend generally horizontally or vertically, a periphery of some panels including surface holes that are not located on a flange and said flanges including flange-holes formed therein;

positioning said one-piece face plate to align flange holes in outer flanges of said plates and sections with said pre-cut holes of said one-piece face plate;

positioning said panels and sections to align said flange holes with said surface holes in contiguous said panels and sections;

interconnecting contiguous pairs of members selected from the group consisting of said face plate and said panels and sections, using a plurality of swage-type fasteners, a fastening step during interconnection comprising: inserting a shank of said fastener through said aligned pre-cut holes in said members until a head of said fastener contacts an outer surface of one of the members, said shank comprising a plurality of lock grooves, inserting a tubular collar onto said shank and swaging an interior portion of said collar into said lock grooves into contact with an inner surface of a flange of the other one of the members effective to clamp together the contiguous pairs of the members and construct said body side storage compartment units weld-free; and connecting door assemblies to each of said one-piece face plates in alignment with said door openings.